1079. c. 24
27

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN Honeſt JOHN and loving KATE; WITH Their Contrivances for MARRIAGE, and Way to get a Livelihood.

Reader, here is a loving Pair,
Who ſhortly to be joined are:
Honeſt JOHN and loving KATE,
To each other proves a Mate.
I wiſh them both in Joy to live,
Since each to other Hearts do give.

PART the FIRST.

Printed and Sold in London.

BRITISH MUSEUM

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A

DIALOGUE, &c.

John.

GOod-morrow, my dear Katy; methinks thou lookeſt coy to-day; what is the matter, with thee?

K. If I had been ſo to you at firſt, I had been wiſer.

J. Why ſo?

K. Becauſe you flatter.

J. I ſcorn it, I am true to thee: — in troth I am,

K. How can I believe it, when you court and kiſs every one you meet?

J. Who told thee theſe ſtories? —— Truely I never kiſs any one but in mirth, for I will marry none but thee.

K. I hear of your roguery.——Pray what was that you ſaid to Betſy Craven t'other day? did not you kiſs her, gripe her by the hand, and tell her that you loved her dearly? and now ſhe tells about the town, how ſhe has deceived me. The

devil take ſuch love, if this be what you have for me.

J. Be not in ſuch a paſſion, and I will tell you how it was.

K. I ſhall not hear you.

J. Dear heart, hear me; by this kiſs I'll tell you the truth.

K. Well then.

J. In troth it was only thus:——I was going to the mill with corn, and by the way met with Betſy Craven —— Good-morrow, John, ſaid ſhe, here is a cold morning, a cup of ale would do well.—I think ſo too, ſaid I.—Faith John, ſaid ſhe, I'll join my penny with you.—I was aſhamed to deny her, ſo we went in, and called for one pot. —The jade was very kind, and took me by the hand, and ſhaked it —John, ſaid ſhe, I believe you are in love, you are ſo dumpiſh.—Oh! yes! ſaid I, you look lively this morning, I thought you would fain be kiſſed.——I pull'd her by the arm, and in troth ſhe fell down upon me.——This was all!—And does this bold ſlut report that I love her? hang her impudence, I'll kick her bum the next time I ſee her, and ſee if ſhe likes that kind of love.

K. This is only becauſe I know it.

J. I wiſh you would believe me, and not be thus jealous.—Pray be not ſo cruel to torment me in this manner. No whore of them all ſhall entice me from thee.—Oh! how I could kick the ſlut!

K. Well, let that paſs.—But what was that you ſaid to the widow?—Theſe ſtories could never be raiſed of themſelves.

J. What goſſipping ſlut is this, who troubles you with theſe ſtories?—They do it on purpoſe to make a difference.

K. Pray tell me the truth of this alſo, and then I ſhall be ſatisfied.

J. By this kiſs, my dear, I will.—I was in a place t'other day a drinking, and in came the widow Braig.—How, now! John, what will you die a batchelor?—I think I muſt do ſo, ſaid I, for maids are ſo coy, there is no dealing with them.—What think you of a Widow? they are more kind.—Will you have me, ſaid I?—Oh! John, ſaid ſhe, you love to jeſt.—I could do no leſs then kiſs her, and then we parted.—When will you come to my houſe, John, ſaid ſhe?—What good cheer have you for a man, ſaid I?—You ſhall have a cup of the beſt, ſaid ſhe, and

ſome good gammon of Bacon. Now thou knoweſt, Kate, I love bacon well; and becauſe I would not be ſeen with her alone, I took William Roe with me, and we ſpent ſix-pence a piece, and eat up half the bacon; and when we were merry, we kiſſed her.—Well widow, ſaid I, I find that widows are more kind than maids; I'll come again before the bacon be gone.—With all my heart, ſaid ſhe, and welcome.—This was all, truly, my ſweet love, and does this fool report I come a courting to her! Wanton whore! I'll never come within her doors more. ſhall ſhun both maids and widow, unleſs when in thy ſight, to make thee ſome ſport—But who tells thee theſe ſtories? I pray thee, my dear Kate, be ſo kind as to tell me.

K. You muſt excuſe me.

J. I will not urge; But pray believe no more ſuch ſtories; for by my faith and troth I love thee: and if my year was once up, thou ſhouldeſt find it ſo.

K. Well, John, I muſt believe you.

J. But doſt thou forgive me?

K. With all my heart.

J. Sweet ſoul, give me thy hand, and

ſay after me theſe werds : — I love thee, John, moſt dearly.

K. I love thee, John, moſt dearly.

J. Pretty ſoul! and doſt thou truly? Methinks theſe words ſound ſo ſweetly, that I muſt kiſs thee for them.—Let's go ſomewhere to drink, and talk a little.

K. Whither ſhall we go?

J. Here is good drink at the Three-Cranes, and as it is a holiday, we need not fear anger for ſtaying, ſo let's go in.

K. As you will, John.

J. Have you any room here?

Hoſt. Pray walk in, ſir.

J. Bring hither ſome new cakes, and a pot of the beſt ale.

H. You ſhall have the beſt, ſir.

J. Come honey, prithee eat.

K. I thank you, John.

J. Here's to thee, my dear, and a faſt for all the wanton whores; thou ſhalt know I love thee.

K. What ſhall be the ſign thereof.

J. I will marry thee, my dear, when my time is up, if thou wilt but conſent; what ſay'ſt thou? ſpeak.

K. I muſt conſider of it.

J. But what thinkeſt thou?—Is it not

the beſt way to end all jealouſy, and to make all ſluts and raſcals leave talking.

K. If we know how to live.

J. How do other folks live?

K. They bethink themſelves before they marry.

J. So will we; let us ſpend this day in contriving.——What will thy friends give thee?

K. Oh, are you come to that?——I thought you would have taken me for love only; and now it is, What have you?

J. Be not angry, my deareſt, if thou hadſt not a ſmock to thy back, I would have thee: But in knowing what each other have, we ſhall know the better how to improve it; and do thou the ſame by me.

K. But I have ten pounds truly, and that is in my uncle Keeble's hands.

J. It is ſure, I hope.

K. You need not doubt that, for he cannot keep it from me; and five pounds I ſaved in ſervice, beſides half a years wages that my miſtreſs owes me.

J. Oh, what a happy man ſhall I be?

J. Oh, what a happy man ſhall I be; What a good a good houſewife haſt thou

thou haſt change of good cloaths too.

K. Why they will ſerve.

J. Now Kate, I will tell thee what I have. My father gave me ten pounds when I came from him, and told me, as I improved that he'd give me more; and with my maſter's leave I have employed it in his malt houſe, and encreaſed it; beſid s my maſter owes me my wages ever ſince I came to him. He would not let me have it, leſt I ſhould play the ill husband. And if I pleaſe him he will give me ſomething when I marry, and ſo will my miſtreſs too.

K. I hope ſo.

J. Now for the beſt advantage, thy ſtock and mine put together will mount to ſomething. And when we have concluded about our marriage, I will try if my maſter will let me have the little houſe and ground lying by Mr. Baldwin's, which will be a great houſe for us.

K. And a great rent too. Why what ſhall we do with ſuch a houſe? One room will ſerve our turn.

J. Aye, to ſleep in my dear, but we muſt not only take care for ſleeping, but a place to get ſome money in.

K. Now that pleaſes me well; I love getting of money dearly; but what trade will you drive?

J. If my maſter will let me have the houſe, we will brew ſome good ale; and as we ſhall have malt of our own, we'll keep a good ſtock going. And with my maſter's leave, there is paſture enough to keep two good beaſts, and conveniencies for hogs and poultry; ſo that you may have all things about you, keep a maid, and live like a lady.

K. This muſt be brave indeed, but what muſt we do with our ale?

J. Sell it my ſweet one.—Let me ſee, there are eight rooms in the houſe, beſides the cellar; and by a little painting and a few benches, it will be very fine, and we muſt have a handſome ſign to draw in company.

K. What ſhall it be?

J. Three Fair Maids, I think.

K. Not for a hundred pounds would I have ſuch a ſign.

J. Why, pithee?

K. Why man, they'd think ſurely we kept a bawdy houſe.

J. What then ſhall we have.

K. Three fidlers, then they may imagine to have muſic.

J. You pleaſe me vaſtly, but how do you like my contrivance ?

K. Very well, truly, if it does not make thee an ill husband.

J. Thou pretty pigſnye, that word ſounds ſo charming out of thy mouth, I muſt kiſs thee for it. Be ſure, my dear, I ſhall mind my buſineſs, and when I have drink always by me, I ſhall not ſo much mind it, only to drink a cup with thee in themorning.

K. That will peaſe me mightily ; for I love ale, and ſhall grow as fat as bacon by drinking it every day.

J. No matter for that, thou wilt be the better to be kiſſed.

K. I like it, but pray be ſpeedy, leſt another take it before you ; and get a licence, for time runs apace.

J. I know he'll not deny me. Tomorrow I'll move it to him ; but I don't chuſe to come to your houſe.

K. Can't you meet me in the fields when I am milking my kine.

J. I will, that's right.

K. Well now we're begun, we may

as well make an end.—Shall we make a money dinner or no?

J. Marry, doſt think thy miſtreſs will let us keep our wedding at her houſe?

K. I doubt not but ſhe will; for I have been a good ſervant to her.

J. If ſhe does that, it will be a grace to us; and I'll invite my maſter and all his family. Wilt thou reſolve then to marry me at Eaſter?

K. It had as good be done and paſt,
Since it muſt be done at laſt.

J. I think ſo too; but how ſhall we do to lay out the money for all things; for if we let the ſtock go, I ſhall fear the gathering of it together again; but I believe my credit is good.

K. What ſhall we do for cloaths?

J. By my troth, ſave that money, for thoſe we have muſt ſerve.

K. I think ſo too.

J. Only I muſt have a hat and a gold ring to put on.

K. Who ſhall come to our wedding?

J. As many as you pleaſe, the more the merrier.

K. What muſic ſhall we have?

J. We'll have Ray and his company.

K. They'll make a roaring noiſe.

J. Ay, and ſing well too, to divert our company; and then he plays upon the bell-harp he made himſelf. Why doſt laugh, does even the thoughts of it pleaſe thee?

K. I laugh to think how the young men will turn the maids about in dancing, and how they will buſs them. Methinks I ſee them already; but good-lack! how ſhall I do to behave myſelf amongſt ſo many?

J. Why prithee, all people will adore thee that day; and I ſhall be woundily proud of it, My dear, to ſee thee ſit as a virgin bride. And I ſhall wait upon thee too that day, as it is my duty.

K. Is that the faſhion?

J. Haſt thou never obſerv'd it at all weddings?

K. I ſhall obſerve my own the more. But you muſt not look towards me, for then I ſhall bluſh, and that will ſhame me.

J. No, no, my dear, a ſmile ſometimes will be very agreeable. They will think there the more it love.

K. Muſt I dance too?

J. My pretty one, all will dance with the bride.

K. I had rather dance with you, John, than any of them.

J. So thou ſhalt, My dear.

K. What favours ſhall we give?

J. Blue and red, I think.

K. They'll look finely, But who ſhall lead us to the church?

J. William Eccles and John Aſhton ſhall lead thee, and Elias Scott ſhall lead me.

K. I ſhan't be able to walk the ſtreets

J No matter for that, they will wiſh themſelves in my condition.

K. Will they, think you.

J. I'll engage it.

K. Who ſhall marry us?

J. Dr. Chandler.

K. O dear, he'll make me bluſh in forcing me to ſpeak out.

J. Thou muſt not be aſhamed, it is honourable ſtate.

K. Who ſhall give me away?

J. You may aſk John Baker, though he had rather have thee himſelf.

K. O fie, no, I'll not aſk him, for, will

ſeem an affront. I had rather aſk neighbour Baldwin, and he'll take it kindly.

J. Do then.

K. Does it not ſhame you to talk of theſe things?

J. No I promiſe thee I am proud of it; and ſo art thou, I believe, but thou wilt not confeſs it.

K. I wiſh it was once over.

J. So do I.

K. Who ſhall make the ſack poſſet?

J. The bride-maids.

K. They will make much ado as they come to eat it, and take their leave of us, by flinging the ſtocking, and one thing or another, that we ſhall wiſh them all far enough.

J. So we ſhall; but we muſt lie the longer the next morning.

K. But I forgot one thing; who ſhall dreſs me?

J. It is a thouſand pities but thou waſt married, you think of every thing ſo. — The bride-maids will dreſs thee.

K. Where ſhall we lie the next night?

J. In our own houſe; ſo we muſt furniſh it before, and lay in ſome ale to make the people merry, and we muſt get

a gammon of bacon, to make the gueſts merrily diſpoſed.

K. What maids ſhall we have?

J. A luſty wench that is able to work, and for forty ſhillings a year ſuch a one may be had.

K. If we ſhould ever be ſick, who is to be our doctor?

J. Dr. Sewers, I think.

K. No, I do not like him, he is not a good one; for when his wife was ill the other day, he could not cure her, but was obliged to have ſomebody elſe. I had rather have Dr. Southwick.

J. So thou ſhalt my dear, if we have occaſion for any.

K. Now I believe we have thought of every thing, let us begin think of what time of the day it is.

J. I hope it is but ſix.

K. Love's dial goes but ſlow; it is paſt ſix, and I ſhall be hanged.

J. Alas! poor thing, be hanged! call me, and I'll cut the rope.—What humour is thy miſtreſs of? ſhe looks frowning.

K. Truly ſhe is good when pleaſed; but ſhe is peeviſh, and will fret and fume at a little matter.

J. Is that her goodneſs? the devil is good when he is pleaſed, My maſter is ſometimes angry too, but then I fit him for it, for when he begins to chide, I get me out of doors.

K. You'll ſerve me ſo, I fear.

J. Aye, if you chide

K. In troth I ſhall chide if you come home drunk, for I am ſure they that love drinking do love whoring.

J. Thou ſhall ſee that.

K. But now John I am upon thorns, my miſtreſs will be angry with me.

J So ſhall I if you go yet; you muſt learn to humour me now.

K. Don't hold my hand, for I muſt be gone. She is very humourſome at times. There chanced to be but a hair in the pudding the other day at the table, and ſhe did ſo maunder, that I thought ſhe never wou'd have done.—I will tell you a very good jeſt: About a week ago ſhe ſent me to the ſhoemakers for her new ſhoes, and becauſe ſhe had them not, ſhe made a hundred wry faces, and was ſo nettled, I could not forbear laughing.

J. I believe ſhe is horribly proud too; pox on her humour.

K. Don't hold me, I mu begone.

J. Come, come, over ſhoes and boots, we had as good make our the day now; and then one chiding will ſerve for all. I look for a ſtorm too, but my maſter is pretty good-natur'd; if he aſks me where I have been, I'll be plain with him, and ſay I have been with thee; and bid him to the wedding too.

K. I am very impatient at ſtaying ſo; my miſtreſs! my miſtreſs!

J. You ſhall have a maſter ſhortly, worth ten of her; ſtay a little, and I'll ſing you a fine ſong of my own making.

K. I never knew you was a Poet before, ſo let me here it quickly.

J. Phillis lov'd her Corrydon,
Phillis lov'd her Corrydon,
So does Katy her dear John,
If I may believe her;
For which I ever will prove true,
And never will leave her.

I have danc'd with her full oft,
She gives me many kiſſes ſoft,
And winks on me with pleaſure;
She is my dear and only joy,
She is my only treaſure.

If he will be ruled by me
Shortly marry'd we ſhall be,
And live in mirth and gladneſs;
For now we do but loſe our time,
And always live in ſadneſs.
To her I always will prove true,
Conſtant as the turtle dove,
In no wiſe I will deceive her.
Till death us part, none has the art,
Of my love to bereave her.

K. O brave John! I ſee you think of me when yon don't ſee me. — I did not think you had been ſo good a ſcholar.— How long was you at ſchool?

J. Not long, for I had more mind to go toplow, and look after my father's horſes, than learn my book; yet I was very apt; for when I was fourteen I could read in my pſalter.—Now Kate, I deſire you would ſing a ſong.

K. What ſhall I ſing?

J. Any one will do.

K. If you will not laguh at me I will ſing as well as I can; but love has altered my voice.

My love is to New England gone,
And left me here a mourning;

There's nought I can eat or drink,
I ſpend my time in groaning.
If he will but return to me,
I will ſhew him more kindneſs:
I never ſhall be coy any more,
For ſure it is a blindneſs.
I'll waſh his band, his ſhirt, and hoſe,
And daily will I mend them;
And ne'er ſhall he want money more,
For mine I'll freely lend him.

Sweet John, if you know my heart,
Thou would'ſt make haſte unto me;
I do repent of what is paſt,
Thy abſence doth undo me.
Good Cupid draw thy Bow,
And wound his heart more ſorely;
For if he never comes again,
I ſhall live here but poorly.
Maidens all be rul'd by me,
Unto love be not ſlighting;
For 'ere men can love ſuch maids,
They will go forth a fighting.

So maids ſpend your time well,
And while you may go marry;
And if you ſtay till you are ſtale,
Ye may, for ever tarry.

K. There's all, how do you like it?

J. Very well; a kind laſs, I warrant her; but I won't ſerve thee ſo, for I will ſtay and live with my love.

K. Come, let us go, I troth we ſhall ruin our wedding by this days work; we ſhall certainly both be chiding.

J. For my part, I'll begin with my maſter firſt, and tell him that I am coming into the honourable ſtate of matrimony, and that I hope he will grace the wedding with his company; and if he raves at me, I will deſire him to remember his own condition; and if it be an evil thing to marry, I will aſk him why he ſet me the example; for he loveth his wife ſo well, that he adores the thoughts of her; and ſo talks of her, that he made her mad to know what a wife was. Sure there is ſome hidden treaſure in a married life, as every one ſtrives to be of a rank.

K. I think ſo too, or elſe ſo many would not deſire it. Maids only are valued by young men, and if they be kind too, they are laughed at; but married folks are accepted of all companies, and are invited to Weddings, Chriſtenings, Burials, and merry Meetings.

J. I hope they'll come a goſſipping to thee ſhortly. and by that time I ſhall look ſoberly, and bid them welcome.

K. You make me bluſh.

J. What will you ſay to your miſtreſs?

K. My beſt way is to let her chide as long as ſhe pleaſes, and then I'll confeſs myſelf in a fault, beg pardon, and then ſhe will be pleaſed again.

J. Thou haſt a good deal of patience, and I commend the for it, and hope you will have ſome with me.

K. We muſt bear with one another; but if we diſpleaſe a maſter or miſtreſs, ſome are ſo very crabed, they will turn one out of doors; but if we're angry with one another, we muſt be friends again. —When my miſtreſs has ſpoken all her mind, and is again in a good humour, I will make her my counſellor, and invite her to my wedding; for ſhe loves one ſhould truſt her with a ſecret; but the miſchief is, I know not how to go in firſt of all; had I but made a bargain I would not care, and now it is dark, I am afraid of loſing my way.

J. Well, I will go with thee; and if ſhe falls out with thee, call me, and I'll

take thy part; for thou ſhalt not be a ſlave to her, no marry, ſhalt thou not.

K. If goody Warren has not milk'd my kine, it will be worſe, I hope ſhe has: I'd had bid her, had I thought to ſtay.

J. Let us reckon what's to pay; let me ſee, we have had three cakes, four pots of ale, and two pipes of tobacco.

K. We muſt not often ſpend ſo much in an alehouſe.

J. The beſt bargain I ever had there, and I hope thou haſt made as good a one.

K. I ſhould be ſorry elſe. Would it were ſealed once.

J. Hoſt, good-bye to you.

H. You are kindly welcome.

K. My heart aches, I know not what to do.

J. Pluck up woman, do not fear.

K. Would I were out of this ſlavery.

J. 'Tis but a month and thou ſhalt.—It is pleaſure to talk to thee.

K. I pity your journey home; but I ſhall never trouble you again for another ——Well, now John, good bye to you, remember all things, order your matters wiſely, and ſend me word, for I ſhall long to hear. If you cheat me, I break my heart.

J. Fear not, if it rains cats and dogs I will come.

K. That's kind, love, indeed. I ſhall go about my work ſo merrily, if my miſtreſs does but forgive me this fault, that I ſhall not feel the ground I walk on.

J. Farewell, ſweet one, when we meet to-morrow we'll conclude all. Here take my heart, and a hundred kiſſes with it.

K. I cannot ſee either.

J. They are only felt my dear; once more fare thee well. Heaven favour me as I prove true to you.

(Kate talks to herſelf as ſhe goes.)

My poor John! how loving he has been to me to-day. I am heartily ſorry I ſnapt him up ſo; ſurely he was innocent. Muſt I be called Goody Piggot? I ſhall then hardly know myſelf! — My dear John! what a many fine words he had for me! and what a fine ſong he made himſelf for me! ſurely I ſhall not ſleep till I hear how our buſineſs goes on:

Love wounds the heart, cracks the brain
And makes one always live in pain.

(John

(John talks to himself as he went on. What a joyful day has this been to me, could recount every day's actions to be as good as this, I should soon be at heaven: Let me reckon what I have done to-day. —I have seen my dear love, and got her consent to wed; O poor heart, she was almost jealous of me; but now I have fully satisfied her, and shortly all fears will vanish. I will have a care for the future how I order things, and be with her to-morrow in the evening; But now I must think what to say to my master for my long absence: Therefore my dear Katy, I must forbear the thoughts of thee for a season.

Farewell awhile, to thee my love adieu;
To thee, dear Kate, *for ever I'll prove true.*

Then home he went to plow and cart,
And what became of him the second part
Will shew the kind Reader more at large,
Which he may purchase for a Penny charge

End of the First Part.

A

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

Honeſt JOHN and loving KATE

WITH

Their Contrivance for MARRIAGE,
And Way to get a Livelihood.

PART the SECOND.

Some Wooing was in the firſt part,
But now they're joined Hand and Heart.
In Wedlock's Bands to the great Joy,
Of all their Friends; tho' Kate was coy
At firſt, at length ſhe granted Love,
And does a conſtant Woman prove.

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A DIALOGUE, &c.

John

MY preety pigeon, and ſweet pigſnye, according to my promiſe laſt night I am come to tell thee what paſſed betweenmy Maſter and me at my return; and alſo to treat of matters relating to our marriage.

Kate.

Welcome my dear; in troth I joy to ſee thee. Alas! I could not eat laſt night, thinking of the grand affair in hand. I thought every minute an hour. Tell me, ſweet love, for I am impatient to hear.

J. I would willingly make thee eaſy, and give thee ſatisfaction; but in my opinion this place is not private enough, for if we are overheard, we ſhall be laugh'd at before we can bring our marriage to perfection.

K. What needs we mind the report they make of ſuch an honourable ſtate! I could

ſay more; there is not a girl above ſixteen but would willingly be bleſt with the ſame happineſs, if it were poſſible.

J. I grant what thou ſayeſt is true; yet nevertheleſs it is natural for lovers to be private, and it is not convenient that all ſhould be ſpectators of our innocent happineſs.

K. Shall I aſk my miſtreſs's leave to go out an hour or two with you?

J. With all my heart.

K. Upon ſecond thoughts 'tis no matter for my work is done; and if ſhe's out of humour I need not mind it, for I ſhall be a miſtreſs myſelf very ſoon.

J. Ay, ſo thou ſhalt, and I'll keep thee a maid too, that I will.

K. O methinks I am lifted up with abundance of joy: what, be married! and keep a maid to wait on me! that's fine.

J. Who is yonder by the barn door

K. Adsfoot 'its my dame; let us ſlily ſlip out at the back door, and make the beſt of our way to the neighbouring grove, and there we may ſafely talk without any danger, and kiſs without fear.

J. Well ſaid, ſweet jewel. This is a pleaſant evening, but is it not ſomething

too cold for us to converſe in the grove; Had not we better go to mother Tipler's at the Sir John Barleycorn, and have a cake and a cup of ale.

K. What to the alehouſe! No I ſhall learn you ſuch a haunt, perhaps, that you'll never leave it. We'll ſit down upon this green bank under the branches of this tree, where we may diſcourſe our fill without any charges.

J. Thou art a moſt notable girl indeed for the ſaving part.

K. New beginners ought to be ſo? for marriage brings us into the want of many things, which we muſt provide, and I muſt needs aſſure you, the fifteen pence which was ſpent yeſterday, would have bought us ſomething towards houſe-keeping.

J. I do not repine at what was ſpent, and why ſhouldeſt thou! Conſider with thyſelf, if all people were of thy mind what ſhould we do with our ale after we have brew'd it, as we propoſed yeſterday.

K. By my troth I will not follow that employment, there are ſo many reflections caſt upon the ale-wives.

J. Love, by this hand of mine thou ſhall not follow that employment: there are greater things in agitation for thee. My maſter has a reſpect for me, far above what I thought till laſt night.

K. What is it he talk'd of laſt night, it is what I want to know? tell me quickly, ſweet Johnny, tell me.

J. Pr'ythee, love, be not in ſo much haſte. I've almoſt forgot how we begun, therefore I muſt recollect my memory.—Let me ſee, I find he likes not an ale-houſe; and how thou comeſt to be of the ſame mind, makes me wonder, when we ſo poſitively agreed on it yeſterday.

K. But tell me, Johnny, I long to know how thou waſt received.

J. But this ſweet kiſs, my dear, I'll tell thee. It was about ſeven o'clock laſt night when we had parted, and I got home, I met my maſter at the door, who ſaid to me, John, how came you to ſtay out ſo late? I was a little at a ſtand, and began to conſider what I had beſt to ſay. At length, calling to mind the old proverb, That truth might be blam'd, but not ſham'd. So I e'en told him I had been with thee.

K. What did he ſay to that? was he angry or pleaſed.

J. He anſwer'd little; but after ſupper call'd me into the Hall, and then he began to talk more freely to me, and aſk'd me whether I intended to make thee my wife; I anſwered him immediately, I lov'd thee more than any girl in the kingdom, and would make thee my wife the firſt opportunity.

K. I warrant you, if you were to tell me the truth, he would have thee live ſingle, that he may fill his bags with the marrow of thy bones, and ſweat of thy brow.

J. My dear, I muſt excuſe him: for, inſtead of wanting me to ſerve him any longer, he has been contriving ways to raiſe me in the world, upon our marriage.

K. How came he to offer any of his favours to you?

J. When I had told him of our afternoon's wooing, and intended wedding, as alſo our contrivance how to live, he lik'd ſome things, and ſome he did not.

K. What was that which he ſeemed not to like? Was it me?

J. So far from that he praiſed thee to the very ſkies.

K. O me! It is poſſible? But tell me what he don't like.

J. When I told him of the houſe we intended to take, and brew ſome ale, we ſhook his head, ſaying, That's an idle, and lazy employment, and fit only for ſuch as are old, and paſt their labour.

K. On my conſcience he's in the right on it, and has ſpoke nothing but the very truth of the matter; for I think we have had no brave times ſince alehouſe-keeping has been made the nurſery of vice.

J. I am highly pleaſed at what thou hath ſaid; and the arguments thou haſt uſed are excellent in themſelves.

K. I had rather remain a ſervant ſtill, than be a miſtreſs where there is drunkenneſs and debauchery.

J. Thou art like to be a miſtreſs, and that in a ſhort time; for my maſter has promiſed me, he will place me in a little farm of thirty pounds a year, which lies about a mile on the ſouth ſide of that he lives in, and don't queſtion he'll perform his promiſe.

K. But my dear, all the money we can raiſe cannot even ſtock us with cattle and other conveniences.

J. We have agreed upon that, and he gave me all encouragement. As we were talking, my dame overheard our diſcourſe, and gather'd knowledge that I was going to be a man for myſelf.

K. And did ſhe underſtand that you and I were going to be married?

J. I belive not, for this reaſon; finding that my maſter was about to let me the Farm, ſhe ſaid, God bleſs him, I wiſh our daughter Jenny was old enough to make him a wife.

K. How old is ſhe?

J. About a eleven or twelve.

K. To deal plainly with you, John, I don't like your miſtreſs ſo well as your maſter. What need ſhe trouble herſelf for a wife for thee? If her huſband helps thee to a farm, thou canſt help thyſelf to a wife.

J. My dear love, indeed thou haſt ſpoken the truth; for while thou liveſt I need not ſeek for a wife.

K. If your miſtreſs's daughter, of whom you ſpeak, had been old enough for mar-

riage, it's likely you would have left me.

J. No, I would not break my vows, and leave my love, for never a miſtreſs's daughter alive, nor the beautifulleſt lady in all our parts; nor would my maſter and miſtreſs deſire that I ſhould do any ſuch thing.

K. How doſt thou know they would not be willing for thee to change?

J. Thus much I can ſay in my miſtreſs's behalf; alas! good woman, when ſhe ſpake concerning her daughter, my maſter told her I was engaged to Kate his neighbour Johnſon's fine dairy maid.

K. And what ſaid your miſtreſs then;

J. As I am a living man, I thought ſhe would have jump'd out of her ſkin.

John is careful, and ſo is loving Kate,
No doubt but they'll be very fortunate.

K. Did your miſtreſs ſay all this of me? I am ſorry for what I have ſaid, becauſe I find her to be a better woman than I took her to be at firſt.

J. But what do you think ſhe ſaid.

K. As I am a maid; and hope to be married, I cannot tell.

J. She desired to be acquainted with the wedding-day; and my master has promised to be father, and give me a wedding-dinner worth five pounds.

K. But as he is a rich man, I'm afraid he'll be affronted; but if not, let him have the office, and I hope he'll be kind to me.

J. What meaneſt thou? I hope no more kind than decent.

K. No, I would not cuckold thee for all the world; but, I mean, give us ſomething towards houſe keeping.

J. That's right; and I would be willing thy miſtreſs ſhould know it likewiſe.

K. Believe me, John, tho' we have had two or three meetings, there muſt be ſome words to bind the bargain.

J. My dear ſweet and everlaſting ſugar-plum, I thought the bargain had been ſo far made, as to want nothing but I John take thee Kate to be my wedded wife.

K. Think ſo, but I'll look before I leap; and pray what employment muſt we follow?

J. My dear, give me a kiſs to clear my voice, and I'll ſoon ſatisfy you.

K. I know that men love kiſſing; but I never heard that kiſſes were good to clear the voice before now.

J. Yes, my dear, and clear the heart alſo. O how ſweet is this kiſs! I muſt have one more; nay, and another too.

K. Why John, forbear; you kiſs ſo cloſe, I am afraid you'll ſtop my breath.

J. I ſtop thy breath; no not for forty thouſand pair of cherry-ſtones.

K. Come John, you have had kiſſes enough at preſent; do not lunge upon me ſo, but ſit upright, and let's be ſerious in contriving how we muſt live in our farm.

J. Love, it is well known I was ever careful of my maſter's buſineſs; and therefore you may hope and believe, I will not be negligent of my own.

K. We muſt have ſome ſervants.

J. I know, my dear, we muſt have ſome help; but 'tis hard to find truſty ſervants.

K. I know it very well; but who in buſineſs can do without ſervants.

J. My dear, thou ſhall have ſome ſtrong country girl to help thee.

K. What will you go to plough your

self when you are married, and master of a farm? your master does not.

J. No, nor I neither, Kate, when I come to be as wealthy as he.

K. I am in hopes we shall do well: what store of cows shall we keep?

J. Let me see; we can't have above as much grass as will serve ten cows, beside my team.

K. That will be employment for me to milk them, and to make butter and cheese; I should not know how to employ my time, if I had not something to do.

J. I'll warrant thee, girl, I'll find thee work sufficient; thou must brew and bake too.

K. That will be brave, I can brew very well.

J. My dear, I don't question it; besides, there's another profitable convenience in it, I intend constantly to keep a couple or more pigs, and the grains of our brewing with other waste we shall make, will be extraordinary good food for them; new beginners must make the best of every thing.

K. I like thy contrivance, and there

ſhall be nothing wanted in me. I will ſerve them; good pork and bacon will be a great ſtay to our family.

J. And we will keep poultry too; you ſhall have cocks, hens, ducks, geeſe, and turkeys, and the increaſe of them ſhall ſerve thee to go to market with.

K. Who muſt have the money made of thoſe odd things?

J. My pretty rogue, I find thou underſtandeth the way of a farmer's wife already, for they had rather have a little purſe to themſelves, than the knowledge of five hundred pounds of their huſbands; ſo I freely give it thee for pin-money.

K. thou ſpeak'ſt indeed like an honeſt man; I am pleas'd to the very heart to hear thy kind and loving offers.——And muſt I lie-in too? that will be brave, I love little children, for I have heard my dame ſay, though they are careful comforts, they are continual bleſſings.

J. She's a notable dame, and ſpeaks with a good deal of diſcretion.

K. Oh me! Theſe are the prettieſt words I ever heard in my life; you're a ſchol r, I warrant, are you not?

J. I can read.

K. What can you read?

J. Love in thy fair eyes, and I muſt and I will have the other kiſs. O! how ſweet are theſe ruby lips of thine!

K. O me! what a racket you make; can't you ſit ſtill and let me alone. Is this the way of wooing, to tumble and teize and rumple one's cloaths as you do.

J. My dear, it's the only way: Wooing without kiſſing, is like a man without cloathing, cold and heartleſs. I have a pretty ſong that I made myſelf upon that ſubject, to-day, as I was alone in the orchard.

My bonny Kate I love thee well,
There's neither Nancy, Joan, or Nell,
Shall ever ſteal my heart away;
For thou ſhalt have it night and day.

Had I ten thouſand pounds in gold,
With lofty buildings manifold,
I'd cloath thee like a lady gay,
Or like the gaudy queen of May.

K. Did you make this fine ſong yourſelf? On my conſcience it is far better than that you made yeſterday.

J. My dear, I made it.

K. And in troth I wiſh you could make me a lady too.

J. There ſhall be nothing wanting in me to make you happy.

K. I did but jeſt; in troth I don't want to be a lady. True love is more valuable than riches; for according to the proverb, A contented mind is a continual feaſt.

J. My dear, thou ſpeakeſt well; let us learn that leſſon and then there is no doubt of our doing well.

Riches takes wing and often fly away;
But laſting love it never will decay.

K. I'm not covetous, yet muſt confeſs, I think it convenient for all new married people to have ſomething to begin with.

J. Bleſſed be God, my dear, we have ſomething to begin with; and with the love, and kindneſs, and credit of my maſter and other friends, I hope to make a pretty beginning.

K. Pray tell me when I ſhall go home, the ſun is almoſt ſet, and my dame will ring me a peal, I doubt; let me go.

J. My dear love I cannot part from thee yet; you have had my ſong, and if you don't give me another, you will be

more unkind than you was yesterday.

K. Well, I'll try what I can do; and if I have not forgot it, thus it is.

Young men have pretty ways,
Pretty ways, pretty ways,
Young men have pretty ways girls to deceive,
When they have gain'd your love,
Then they'll deceitful prove:
It is but a folly their vows to believe.

I shall not die a maid,
Die a maid, die a maid,
I shall not die a maid, thus I must own.
Dick got my maidenhead,
And then he would not wed.
Thus did he ruin poor innocent Joan.

J. My dear, this is a pretty song, but something melancholy; Did you ever understand how it was between her and her love, which caused her to make this sorrowful complaint?

K. I was but a girl, but I can remember something of it; it seems, under pretence of her loving another he left her.

J. He was a wicked fellow, and I'll warrant it will come home to him. I

would not be guilty of ſuch a piece of knavery for all the money I am worth.

K. My dear Johnny, I believe thee, for if I had not taken thee for an honeſt man, I ſhould never have truſted myſelf with you in ſuch a loneſome place as this.

J. My dear, I thank thee for thy good opinion of me, and I hope thou wilt never find thyſelf miſtaken; but what became of the poor creature after?

K. My dear, ſhe had ſpecia fortune.

J. Pr'ythee, my dear, what fortune

K. Why ſhe left her child, and travel'd to London, where paſſing for a maid, an old rich merchant fell in love with her, marry'd her, and made her a lady, and ſhe has ſince been in the country ten times finer than her miſtreſs, the parſon's wife of the pariſh.

J. In troth 'tis well ſhe went to London: for ſuch a match would never have been her lot in the country. —— But my dear, let us come nearer to the intended purpoſe of our own marriage; appoint the day, for I have no power to leave thee before thou haſt.

K. Appoint the day! Oh, that word

makes my heart beat, and joints tremble, to think how I ſhall go thro' it.

J. Pr'ythee, my dear, be not faint-hearted; what haſt thou to go through, but a day of pleaſure, and a night which will make thee as wiſe as any woman in the town that has been married twenty years.

K. But John, I who have laid ſo many years by myſelf, as I have done, do you think I ſhall not be aſhamed to lie with a man? I am ſure I bluſh at the very thought of it.

J. Bluſhes become thee, I know a modeſt maid trembles, when ſhe approaches the marriage-bed, and is loath to venture; like the timerous youth, who ſtands on the bank of a river, shivering with fear, till he enter in, and then he bathes with pleaſure and delight; ſo it will be with thee.

K. Since it muſt be ſo, as I was born on the tenth of next month, I think it's as proper a time as any. 'Twas the firſt day of my entering into the world; ſo I am willing it ſhould be the firſt day of my entering into the honourable ſtate of matrimony; and by that means I can keep

both my birth-day and wedding-day with one and the ſame feaſt.

J. Rarely well contriv'd; here is my hand; keep thy promiſe, and thou ſhalt find that honeſt John will prove a true and faithful lover. Let us ſeal our bargain with a kiſs; in theſe few words you have given me more comfort than ever I had before.

K. I hope I ſhall never have any cauſe to repent it.

J. No, my dear ſweeting, by this kiſs I hope you will not.

K. Come John, it is time to leave off it grows late; we have been ſo buſy in kiſſing and courting, that I have not minded how the Time goes, I am afraid leaſt I have anger.

J. What if I ſhould go home along with thee? doſt thou think it would be convenient? I believe it may; for if we ſhould find your miſtreſs in a good humour, we may take her aſide, and inform her of our intended marriage.

K. I accept of thy love, and am reſolved to venture home with you, even et what will happen, for we have done

nothing to be aſhamed of, ſo I think we had beſt go in together.

J. Yonder is thy miſtreſs, ſhe is juſt within the gate ſerving the pigs.

K. Now ſhe ſees us and looks full at us.

Dame.

So, here comes a loving couple indeed; What, John Newſham and my maid Kate have been walking together.

J. Yes, we have, and I have taken care to bring her ſafe home again; ſo now I think I had beſt bid you both good night.

D. Stay, John, ſince you have been ſo kind to ſee her home, I hope you will accept of my love, in a cup of good March beer.

J. Dame, I heartily thank you.

D. Here, Kate, take the key, and fetch a couple of bottles; you may as well wait on honeſt John, for I think ere long you muſt wait upon him as a dutiful and obedient wife; what ſay you John?

J. I muſt confeſs, dame, you have hit upon one part; we have agreed on the day for marriage; but I cannot tell how

dutiful ſhe will be, ſhe promiſes well.

D. Here's to thee, John, I wiſh you both well; ſhe has been an induſtrious ſervant, and I hope will make a good wife.

J. Dame, I thank you. Now Kate, I ſay, here's to thee.

K. I thank you, John.

D. Pray let me know when the happy day is to be, and old as I am, I will have one merry jig for joy of her wedding. 'Tis well known, I love to ſee my ſervants come to preferment.

J. It will be on the tenth day of the next month, if we live ſo long; and my maſter has promiſed us our wedding-dinner, and has given me orders to invite all my friends, and they ſhall be heartily welcome; and I hope we ſhall have you, good company; and ſo here's to your dame, it grows late, or elſe I could willingly have ſtaid with you longer.

D. John, I thank you, and wiſh you well home.

J. Good-night to you both, I wiſh you reſt, health, and happineſs; particularly my dear ſweet Kate, a thouſand

times farewell, till our next happy meeting.

John talks to himself as he goes.

Well, I have made as good an evening's work of it as ever I made in all my life; for I have not only gotten the good will of my dear Kate; but have likewise brought her to appoint a day for our happy marriage; and what is more, her dame being acquainted with it, places me highly in her favour; from whence I have the greatest encouragement, and hopes of doing very well. I'll make another short song, for my own singing, the better to pass away the tedious hours which lead unto the true perfection of our happiness.

Swift-winged time make no delay,
But let the minutes pass away,
More swift than they have ever done,
That I may perfect what's begun,
I long to have her in my arms,
There's joy, there's love, there's melting charms.

This song will do, for ought I know I may say it oftener than my prayers. Well, now I'll make a posey for my true love's ring.

Kate loves John, and John loves Kate,
Kind Heaven send them fortunate.

John went merrily about his buſineſs, bought the ring, fix'd the poeſy, and ſome little time before the day appointed, brought it to his love, and told her that he made the poeſy himſelf. She took it, making him an excellent curtſey, and carry'd it to her dame, and told her what John had done. She read it and liked it

Time at length brought them to the happy morning of the wedding-day, againſt which time John, like an induſtrious lover, had provided every thing convenien for the marriage, not only the ring, but likewiſe rich favours, bride-men, bride maids, and all their friends, both the maſters and dames of both families. John and Kate in particular were dreſt as fine and gay as the lord and lady of May. So then in a moſt decent and creditable manner they were conducted unto the church. The marriage being ended, they returned home in all the joy imaginable, with bells ringing, and many others ſigns of mirth, at John and Kate's happineſs;

nd feaſtin g, muſick, and dancing finiſh-d the day.

Then was Kate, by her friends aſ-ſiſtance, will all the merriment that could be made, conducted to her bride-bed; and ſoon after came John to the ſame place; their friends departed, and they were left to do as their parents had done before them.

FINIS.

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